



Maryland

Department of Economic &
Employment Development

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LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

A Monthly Report on the Dynamics of the Labor Market in Maryland

September, 1988

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 North Eutaw Street
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William Donald Schaefer
Governor

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LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
SEPTEMBER, 1988

MARYLAND

JOBLESSNESS UNCHANGED

For the third consecutive month, Maryland's unemployment rate held steady at 4.2 percent in September. Last year, the jobless rate was slightly lower at 3.9 percent. A relatively stable unemployment rate is the norm for September. On average, since 1984 the variation in the statewide jobless rate between August and September has hovered at just 0.1 percentage points.

September's static jobless rate actually masked the overall level of activity in the job market over the month. Maryland's labor force, after rising by an estimated 3,400 persons during August, tightened significantly in September. The seasonal movement of summer workers out of the job market caused the number of active participants in the work force to decline by 12,855. Meanwhile, seasonal layoffs pulled the number of working Marylanders down by a slightly higher 12,903 persons over the month. The net result of September's labor market activity was a slight increase, of just 48 people, in the state's pool of unemployed workers.

The termination of seasonal employment and the exodus of summer workers from the job market is a normal occurrence in September. Another habitual happening, which is often obscured by this labor force exodus but is still worth mention, is the re-entrance and re-employment of state and local education-related personnel.

	September 1988	August 1988	September 1987
Civilian Labor Force	2,458,757	2,471,612	2,398,518
Total Employment	2,355,818	2,368,721	2,305,775
Total Unemployment	102,939	102,891	92,743
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.2	3.9
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.4	5.7

Nationally, the civilian unemployment rate fell slightly over the month as seasonal workers left the job market. The U.S. rate, while declining by 0.2 percentage points to register 5.2 percent, continued to top Maryland's estimate by a full percentage point in September.

INDUSTRIAL PAYROLLS RESPOND TO SEASONAL SWINGS

Maryland's industrial payrolls rose by 13,300 jobs in September, reaching a level of 2,054,100. Last year, the August-September gain was limited to just 3,400 jobs. Although the recent upswing in industrial activity resulted more from recall activity rather than from actual new job generation, Maryland's economic track record has been reinforced by the addition of nearly 20,000 new jobs since last September.

In manufacturing, where trends tend to be relatively erratic, seasonal layoffs in preserved fruits and vegetables contributed to an employment slide of more than 200 jobs in the state's food processing industry. Aside from this seasonal downswing, the forecast in manufacturing was also clouded by the onset of three separate labor disputes in the durable goods sector which, when combined, adversely affected an estimated 450 workers. On the positive side, increased business activity induced gains of slightly more than 200 jobs in printing and publishing and an estimated 100 jobs in transportation equipment.

In the nonmanufacturing sector, much of the employment forecast was influenced by seasonal fluctuations. In government, recalls for the fall semester bolstered employment in educational facilities by an estimated 12,800 jobs during September. Meanwhile, layoffs of summer workers at federal and local government agencies slimmed payrolls by slightly more than 7,000 jobs.

Hiring in construction, although showing signs of tapering off, added nearly 1,000 jobs to the state's payrolls. Special trade contractors, the biggest gainer, accounted for nearly two-thirds of the overall industry increase. Employment gains in transportation were almost on par with those registered in construction. Trucking and air transportation contributed 100+ new jobs. Seasonal recalls of school bus drivers, however, provided the primary impetus for gains in the transportation sector.

Meanwhile, employment in the services industries receded by an estimated 650 jobs during September with the start of seasonal layoffs in hotels/lodging places, amusement/recreation services, membership organizations and agricultural services. On the up side, the onset of fall recalls boosted educational services by nearly 2,100 jobs. Additional hiring was also noted in health services and also in personal services.

A slight increase in wholesale trade employment during September was overwhelmed by layoffs of 2,500 in retail trade. For the most part, the end of the summer layoffs in eating and drinking places dominated the performance in the retail trade sector. Layoffs, although limited in extent, also occurred in general merchandise stores, auto dealers, and apparel/accessory stores. Also in September, layoffs of summer workers caused employment in the finance, insurance and real estate sector to drop by 500 jobs. Losses were most prevalent in banking and in credit agencies.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT¹ BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

SEPTEMBER 1988

Major Industry Grouping	September 1988	August 1988	September 1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2,054.1	2,040.8	2,035.3
Manufacturing	207.3	207.5	208.7
Durable Goods	108.7	109.1	110.5
Nondurable Goods	98.6	98.4	98.2
Nonmanufacturing	1,846.8	1,833.3	1,826.6
Mining	1.9	1.8	2.0
Construction	157.1	156.1	156.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	94.3	93.3	93.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	525.0	527.4	522.5
Wholesale Trade	110.9	110.8	111.0
Retail Trade	414.1	416.6	411.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	128.0	128.5	125.8
Services	552.0	552.7	546.0
Total Government	388.5	373.5	380.3
Federal	127.6	128.3	129.0
State	90.6	86.0	87.8
Local	170.3	159.2	163.5

¹The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

In the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, the jobless rate inched up slightly over the month, from 4.5 percent to 4.6 percent. Within the BMA, local unemployment rates ranged from a low of 2.5 percent in Carroll County to a high of 7.0 percent in Baltimore City. The BMA's industrial payrolls reacted similarly to those statewide, with the exception of the manufacturing and services sectors. While these industries declined statewide, an increase of 500 jobs was noted in the BMA's manufacturing payrolls and, in services, a gain of 600 jobs. In manufacturing, job gains posted in electronic equipment, printing/publishing, paper products, and transportation equipment contributed to the industry's overall performance. In services, recalls in educational services and increased activity in business services exerted the primary influence on the industry as a whole.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

In Maryland's D.C. suburbs, unemployment ebbed slightly, from 3.3 percent to 3.2 percent. Within the area, jobless rates declined in all the local jurisdictions with the exception of Prince George's County where unemployment rose negligibly from 3.7 percent to 3.8 percent. During September, the region's industrial payrolls rose by 8,500 jobs. While normal seasonal declines tapered payrolls in building materials/garden supplies, eating and drinking places, amusement services, and agricultural services, these declines were countered by gains in construction, general merchandise stores, educational services, and state and local government.

WESTERN MARYLAND

The unemployment rate in the western region stabilized in September, holding at the August rate of 6.7 percent. Last year's September jobless rate was noticeably higher at 7.4 percent. Although unemployment remained stable, overall employment in the region did decline over the month by an estimated 1,197 persons. However, the impact of this decline on the unemployment rolls was negligible due to an almost identical drop in the region's labor force. In Allegany County, the only western county to experience increased joblessness, the unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to register 8.4 percent in September. However, in absolute terms, this translated into an increase of less than 100 people on the county's unemployment rolls.

BALANCE OF STATE

Joblessness in the Balance of State area left 5.1 percent of the area's labor force idle during September, up from 5.0 percent in August. During September, seasonal employment declines were noted in food processing, hotels, amusement services, food stores, eating and drinking places, and real estate. Locally, in Kent County, an increase of nearly 300 people in the labor force was a factor in causing the county's unemployment rate to rise from 4.5 percent to 5.6 percent. Meanwhile, in Worcester County, the seasonal drop off in tourist activities signaled a rise in the county's jobless rate from 2.6 percent to 3.6 percent. Despite this increase, the county's jobless rate is still running below that of 4.0 percent recorded last September.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT¹ BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--SEPTEMBER 1988

Major Industry Grouping	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	Sept.1988	Aug. 1988	Sept.1988	Aug. 1988	Sept.1988	Aug. 1988	Sept.1988	Aug. 1988
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1092.9	1090.0	730.8	722.3	85.2	85.1	139.1	138.9
Manufacturing	131.2	130.7	35.8	36.0	16.2	16.3	24.4	24.7
Durable Goods	73.6	73.5	18.4	18.8	7.3	7.4	8.9	8.9
Nondurable Goods	57.6	57.2	17.4	17.2	8.9	8.9	15.5	15.8
Nonmanufacturing	961.7	959.3	695.0	686.3	69.0	68.8	114.7	114.2
Construction	76.0	76.0	64.3	63.7	6.0	5.6	10.1	10.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	53.3	52.9	27.7	28.1	5.4	5.4	7.4	7.3
Wholesale and Retail Trade	270.3	270.4	193.8	194.7	23.5	23.5	38.2	38.3
Wholesale Trade	64.7	64.7	35.2	35.4	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	205.6	205.7	158.6	159.3	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	75.6	76.2	43.0	43.3	3.1	3.1	5.3	5.5
Services and Mining	291.5	290.9	213.2	214.3	18.9	19.0	30.5	31.1
Total Government	195.0	192.9	153.0	142.2	12.1	12.2	23.2	21.9
Federal	49.6	50.0	67.5	67.8	1.7	1.7	6.1	6.2
State	62.1	62.6	18.5	14.7	3.9	3.9	4.5	3.9
Local	83.3	80.3	67.0	59.7	6.5	6.6	12.6	11.8

¹The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.

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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

SEPTEMBER, 1988

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST*	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST*	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST*	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST*	SEPT. '87
MARYLAND	2,458,757	2,471,612	2,355,818	2,368,721	102,939	102,891	4.2	4.2	3.9
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,176,836	1,182,307	1,122,754	1,128,935	54,082	53,372	4.6	4.5	4.2
BALTIMORE CITY	345,419	346,714	321,150	322,918	24,269	23,796	7.0	6.9	6.6
ANNE ARUNDEL	209,367	210,869	202,933	204,051	6,434	6,818	3.1	3.2	3.0
BALTIMORE	382,544	384,033	366,924	368,944	15,620	15,089	4.1	3.9	3.6
CARROLL	59,077	59,436	57,577	57,894	1,500	1,542	2.5	2.6	3.2
HARFORD	78,060	78,175	74,607	75,018	3,453	3,157	4.4	4.0	3.5
HOWARD	87,638	88,293	85,270	85,740	2,368	2,553	2.7	2.9	2.3
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,731	14,787	14,292	14,371	439	416	3.0	2.8	3.2
D. C. AREA	976,353	979,331	944,752	947,066	31,601	32,265	3.2	3.3	2.9
CALVERT	21,719	21,967	20,903	20,954	816	1,013	3.8	4.6	3.7
CHARLES	45,627	46,005	44,272	44,381	1,355	1,624	3.0	3.5	2.8
FREDERICK	73,702	74,318	71,670	71,845	2,032	2,473	2.8	3.3	2.8
MONTGOMERY	414,649	415,702	403,348	404,336	11,301	11,366	2.7	2.7	2.4
PRINCE GEORGE'S	420,656	421,339	404,559	405,550	16,097	15,789	3.8	3.7	3.5
WESTERN MARYLAND	99,966	101,157	93,229	94,426	6,737	6,731	6.7	6.7	7.4
ALLEGANY	32,016	32,236	29,323	29,632	2,693	2,604	8.4	8.1	10.0
GARRETT	12,195	12,595	11,242	11,570	953	1,025	7.8	8.1	7.0
WASHINGTON	55,755	56,326	52,664	53,224	3,091	3,102	5.5	5.5	5.9
BALANCE OF STATE	205,602	208,818	195,083	198,295	10,519	10,523	5.1	5.0	4.4
CAROLINE	14,105	14,044	13,639	13,454	466	590	3.3	4.2	4.3
CECIL	34,916	34,985	32,211	32,317	2,705	2,668	7.7	7.6	4.5
DORCHESTER	17,424	17,641	16,552	16,753	872	888	5.0	5.0	4.7
KENT	9,344	9,078	8,822	8,674	522	404	5.6	4.5	3.6
ST. MARY'S	36,466	36,763	34,672	35,083	1,794	1,680	4.9	4.6	4.6
SOMERSET	11,542	11,586	10,776	10,836	766	750	6.6	6.5	5.7
TALBOT	16,456	16,380	16,081	15,665	375	715	2.3	4.4	2.9
WICOMICO	41,268	40,396	39,105	38,297	2,163	2,099	5.2	5.2	4.6
WORCESTER	24,081	27,945	23,225	27,216	856	729	3.6	2.6	4.0
¹ UNITED STATES	121,842,000	123,396,000	115,474,000	116,737,000	6,368,000	6,659,000	5.2	5.4	5.7

*Estimates for the state are revised.

¹

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.



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